

**CITY OF BLYTHE**  
**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROGRAM**  
**GUIDELINES**

**BLYTHE CITY HALL**  
**ATTN: City Manager**  
**235 North Broadway**  
**Blythe, CA 92225**  
**Phone (760) 922-6161**  
**Fax (760) 922-4938**

**BLYTHE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT PROGRAM**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Blight Elimination Grant Program is designed to encourage the voluntary removal of blighted structures in the Blythe Redevelopment Agency Project Area. This program may be used in conjunction with other Agency programs but all evaluations for funding consideration shall be considered on individual project merits.

These guidelines have been developed to present the basic elements of the Blight Elimination Grant Program with specific emphasis on the eligibility criteria for selection of applicant/area, types of improvements and reimbursable expenditures. Details of the application process for grants under this program are outlined in Section VI, Program Procedures.

Nothing in this program obligates the Blythe Redevelopment Agency to provide assistance to any applicant. Evaluation of projects is done on a case by case basis. Consideration will be given to timeliness of application, priority of project in regards to the overall Redevelopment Plan, and availability of funds.

The Blythe Redevelopment Agency reserves the right to allocate funds to individual projects at its sole discretion and to increase or decrease grant amounts.

**II. DEFINITION**

A. Blight for purposes of this program is defined according to the following elements of California Statutes, Health and Safety Code §330031:

*Buildings in which it is unsafe or unhealthy for persons to live or work. These conditions can be caused by serious building code violations, dilapidation and deterioration. Buildings or structures that are unusable in their current conditions.*

This program shall not fund weed and/or trash abatement projects.

B. Grants for this program are available only in the Blythe Redevelopment Project Area unless special findings are made by the Blythe Redevelopment Agency as to public safety, necessity or benefit.

**III. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the following criteria:

- A. Location - Those areas of highest visibility receive higher priority.
- B. Code Violations
- C. Community Aesthetics
- D. Return on Investment - Potential to stimulate Economic Development Activity.
- E. Owner Participation - Program requirement.

#### IV. PARTICIPATION/GRANT AMOUNT

A. This is a private/public participation program. The Blythe Redevelopment Agency grant assistance will be based on a percentage of the cost of blight removal, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Further, the Blight Elimination Grant Program works on a reimbursement basis, and payment of grant funds shall be made only after submitting satisfactory cost information to the City of Blythe Finance Department. An Agency check for the approved reimbursement will be paid directly to the applicant after all work is complete and inspected and all appropriate receipts have been submitted and approved by the City's Finance Department. Normal turnaround time for issuing the reimbursement check is 30 days.

B. Grant Amounts. These are guideline maximum amounts for illustration purposes:

30 to 35 Points	\$10,000 or 50% of total cost whichever is less
25 to 29 Points	\$ 7,500 or 45% of total cost whichever is less
20 to 24 Points	\$ 5,000 or 40% of total cost whichever is less
15 to 19 Points	\$ 2,500 or 35% of the total cost whichever is less
10 to 15 Points	\$ 1,000 or 30% of the total cost whichever is less
Less than 10 Points	No RDA contribution

#### V. TIME FRAMES

Permits must be obtained and work must proceed under this program within 3 months of approval. Work must be completed within 6 months of approval unless an extension is approved in writing by the Blythe Redevelopment Agency. Funds will not be granted for projects that do not meet required time frames.

#### VI. BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT PROGRAM PROCEDURES

- Step 1: The applicant will be required to submit a one page narrative explaining the proposed project. No application will be considered until this informal explanation of work has been received and reviewed by Redevelopment Agency staff. The one page must include the applicant's name and phone number. Typed information is preferred, but the information must be legible and in ink to be considered.
- Step 2: Follow-up contact will be made between Redevelopment Agency staff and the grant applicant. This step will be initiated by the Agency staff. The follow-up discussion will more thoroughly determine whether the project is located within the Redevelopment Project Area and if the proposed activities are within the program guidelines. If appropriate a copy of the Blight Elimination Grant application will be provided to the applicant.
- Step 3: The applicant fills out application form and sends a fully completed application (including a bid estimate) to the Agency with two photographs of the building. If the individual applying is not the property owner, documentation proving the individual has the authorization of the property owner to perform the blight elimination work is required. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Step 4: The application is reviewed by the Agency staff to determine whether the activities are within the program guidelines.
- Step 5: If approved by the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors the work must begin within 3 months after Agency approval. Projects not started within the 3 months shall lose their funding eligibility, unless an extension request (must be in writing) is approved by the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors.
- Step 6: The completion of the blight elimination work must be accomplished in 6 months. Applicant shall submit a simple written request for reimbursement, and this request shall include copies of relevant paid invoices, cancelled checks, etc. to verify applicant's financial contribution towards the project.

*Blythe*

# BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT PROGRAM

Date Received	
Committee Date	
Agency Action	

## VII. APPLICATION

1. Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Blight Location: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Telephone Applicant can be reached at during the day: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Best time to contact Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Owner Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tenant Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_
8. Description of Work:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attach drawings and/or additional sheets as necessary.

9. Estimated project cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_. This estimate must be supported by a legitimate bid detailing cost and scope of work.
10. Please Attach two photographs of the structure.

No recommendation will be made to the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors until there is a clear understanding of the work to be accomplished for which assistance is being requested. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

# **VIII. DECLARATION**

As the applicant, I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the guidelines for the Blight  
(Print name)

Elimination Grant Program and agree to carry out the work in accordance with these guidelines. Any changes in the approved scope of work must be presented to the Agency for approval before the work is commenced.

I understand that the Blight Elimination Grant Program works on a reimbursement basis and that I must submit detailed cost documentation, including canceled checks, paid invoices, copies of Building Permits, all contractor's waivers of lien, and a photograph of the cleaned area upon completion of the project.

I understand that I cannot begin work on the improvements until my application has been approved by the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors and copies of all necessary permits (e.g., building, sign, awning, etc.) have been approved by the City of Blythe. I realize that the cost of work performed prior to these occurrences will not be reimbursed by the Blythe Redevelopment Agency.

I understand that once my application has been approved, I must start work on removing the blighted structure within 3 months, and complete the project within 6 months, unless I request an extension in writing from the Blythe Redevelopment Agency.

I understand I may be required to demonstrate financial capability to complete the work in a timely manner (e.g. business or personal financial statements).

I understand the Blythe Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors is the final authority for those matters concerning the Blight Elimination Grant Program and that their decision is final.

Finally, I fully understand the information contained in my application is accurate and complete to the best of my ability under penalty of perjury.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This signature sheet must be returned with the application to:

Blythe Redevelopment Agency  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, CA 92225  
(760) 922-6161

**IX. Evaluation Criteria**

This section will be completed by Redevelopment Agency staff, and is included herewith only to illustrate the evaluation criteria used in computing any RDA assistance.

**Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Possible Points	Category	Assigned Points
<b>Location</b>			<input type="text"/>
I-10 Visible	10 Points		
Hobsonway Corridor	10 Points		
Business District	8 Points		
Major Streets	6 Points		
Residential Areas	5 Points		
Industrial Areas	4 Points		
<b>Code Violations</b>			<input type="text"/>
Eminent Threat	10 Points		
Health and Safety Risk	8 Points		
Condemned Buildings	6 Points		
Minor Violations	4 Points		
<b>Community Aesthetics</b>			<input type="text"/>
Greatly Concerned	10 Points		
Very Concerned	8 Points		
Concerned	5 Points		
Less Concern	3 Points		
<b>Return on Investment</b>			<input type="text"/>
Yes	5 Points		
No	0 Points		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<input type="text"/>

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended Grant Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved Grant Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_